

WEEKLY CHAMPION.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1st, 1884.

THE CHAMPION HAS A CIRCULATION ALONG THE LINE OF THE A. & P. ROAD DOUBLE THAT OF ANY OTHER PAPER IN ARIZONA.

The A. M. B. R. R.

The CHAMPION was favored with a call from Judge John C. Hicks, who spent several hours in our office on Monday. Judge Hicks is counselor for the A. M. B. R. R., a position that naturally brings him in close and confidential relations with the leading officers of our proposed railroad. He spoke most favorably of the prospect of the early construction of the line from this point south, and thinks the work of construction would begin with the opening of spring. While it is true there is little disposition shown in monied circles to invest in new railroad enterprises, and while the approaching political campaign may also tend toward retrenchment until future policies are outlined and fully understood; yet we venture the opinion that this must apply only in a general way to railroad development and not in any sense to our section. No one conversant with the mineral resources and extent of the forests of pine along the line of this proposed road can doubt for a moment that it will be but a brief period before the work of construction is begun. Aside from the timber and mining interests it is unsurpassed as a grazing and farming country, and requires simply an outlet by rail to make it the most desirable place on the continent for the location of either capital or labor. New towns are springing up in the mineral regions around us who will look to us for their lumber. Valuable deposits of low grade ores in the Tonto Basin and other isolated districts are lying undeveloped for want of fuel or cheap transportation. In our yet sparsely settled county of Yavapai, we have seventy-five thousand head of cattle, sixty-five thousand head of sheep, and ten thousand head of horses. Much of our surplus live stock will go to market when once the facilities for reasonable transportation is offered. As a local line, no one can doubt the A. M. B. R. R. will pay, which is saying that the trunk lines of the country will think it indispensable to have feeders penetrating the same sections through which it will pass.

The following bill which has recently been introduced in Congress and referred to the Committee on Territories, will, if it become a law, prove beneficial alike to lawyers and litigants, and relieve the Justices of the Supreme Court from the embarrassment of passing upon cases which they have already adjudicated:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America,

That section eighteen hundred and sixty-four of chapter one and title twenty-three of the Revised Statutes be amended so as to read as follows:

Sec. 1864. The supreme court of every Territory shall consist of a chief justice, and three associate justices, three of whom shall constitute a quorum; and they shall hold a term annually at the seat of government of the Territory for which they are respectively appointed; provided that no justice shall act as a member of the supreme court in a case brought before it by writ of error, bill of exceptions, or appeal from a decision or judgment rendered by him as judge of a district court.

The greediness of the Union Pacific railroad knows no bounds. It has commenced suit in the Court of Claims of the United States to recover \$1,000,000 for transportation services. But an offset turns up. It seems that the company has not yet paid its cash to the sinking fund, required by the Thurman bill, on which it now owes the government \$8,000,000 and the balance, the government will sue for—\$7,000,000. This is another blow to great corporations on the part of the government, which the people will welcome to a man. The company wants all, and is not willing to pay its honest dues.

Probably the longest fence in the world will be the wire one to be built from the Indian territory west across the Texas Panhandle, and 35 miles into New Mexico. It is said that 85 miles of this fence is already under contract. Its course will be along the line of the Canadian river, and its purpose to stop the drift of the northern cattle. It is a bold and splendid enterprise, and will pay a large percentage on the investment. The fence will be over 200 miles long. The Indian who comes to it and decides to go round it, rather than to try to get over it, will get bored following it to find the end.

The Clantons are again heard from. They have been characterized as crooked cattle men, and in Cochise county, a few years ago, they had considerable trouble, resulting in the younger of them being shot. Now a Clanton is charged by Messrs. Fisher and Bashford, of Prescott, with having disposed of cattle which were not his. Prominent lawyers are employed on both sides, and the case is before Judge Fleury's court, in Prescott.

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TERRITORIAL RIGHTS.

Larger Political Privileges Demanded—Why they Should be Granted—Speech of Delegate Oury, of Arizona.

The following is a synopsis of a speech delivered by Delegate Oury, of Arizona, before the House committee on Territories, in favor of granting larger political privileges to territorial voters:

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have learned that the sub-committee, to whom was referred the House bill No. 1666, which provides for the election of governor and secretary by the people of the several Territories, had determined to report adversely upon said bill, and were prevented from so doing by the interposition of a friend upon the committee, Mr. Lanham, of Texas, who suggested that final action of the committee be postponed until the gentleman introducing the bill could be heard from.

I here acknowledge the courtesy of the gentleman, not alone to myself, but to the people I represent, in giving me an opportunity of being heard upon the subject matter of the bill.

Of course the points of objection have not been made known to me, consequently I am left to grope in the dark, but, in considering the question, I am left to form my own conclusions as to the objections that could possibly be argued against the measure, and upon examination of the question, the only decision I can arrive at is, that while there is absolutely nothing in the bill that is obnoxious to the constitution of the United States, or incompatible with the idea of free government by the people, that the committee has enconced itself behind a long line of precedents that the government has followed since the inauguration of the first territorial government on the continent. During all this time, I confess (and I do with reluctance) that it has been the policy of the government to dictate absolutely and directly the mode and manner of the government of the Territories, not because the idea has any warrant under the constitution, but because the government has assumed that position. Upon an examination of the constitution we find that the government has absolute and unlimited control of so much territory, not exceeding ten miles square, as has been ceded to it by certain states, and in addition thereto such property as it has purchased from certain states for navy yard, dock yards and military purposes; beyond these no one concedes the absolute authority of the government to control districts established for the convenience of the people.

The only warrant found in the Constitution for the continuance of the policy of the government towards the territories is derived from that clause of the Constitution which provides that Congress shall make all needful rules and regulations for the government of the Territories. In order to arrive at a correct conclusion as to the meaning of this clause, we must necessarily consult contemporaneous history. We must look to the facts as they appear of record, and by the light of those facts the intelligence of the country must be convinced.

It cannot be argued that the Territories are dependent provinces, composed of inhabitants hostile or inimical to our form of government, or that they have less of the attributes of independent freemen than any other equal number of people living in any other portion of this broad land, that they are not equal in intellect, as devoted to free government and as persistent in their demands for equal rights under the laws of the country as any other citizens wherever domiciled. Then what does the Constitution mean when it says "that Congress shall make all needful rules and regulations for the government of the Territories."

In my judgment it means simply this: That Congress shall furnish or supply the means by which the people of the Territory may govern themselves in accordance with the spirit and genius of American institutions as understood by the fathers of the country. That they may elect the officers who have in charge the execution of the laws. That those officers may be selected from the body of the people, who are acquainted with all the circumstances that surround the people who elect them, whose interests are identical with the people, and who acknowledge a responsibility to the constituency who elect them.

In proof of this proposition, I call the attention of the committee to the fact that in the indictment drawn against the mother country by the signers of the declaration of independence the complaint was that the people were not consulted or allowed a voice in the selection of governmental officers; that they were taxed without representation; in fact, that they were held in a state of subjection to which no intelligent-thinking, liberty-loving people could submit without the loss of self-respect.

This being the feeling prevalent at that time, can it be consistently said that the framers of the Constitution under which we live, and to which we owe obedience, could for a moment have intended that any portion of their fellow-citizens should be subjected to the same grievances? And yet this long line of precedent, for which the committee seem to have such reverence, condemns nearly a million of

American citizens residing in the several Territories to a condition equally as abhorrent as that complained of by our forefathers.

It has been asserted by one of the jurists of the country and one of the most profound Constitutional lawyers that this country has ever produced, that the "The experience of the whole world, in all time, shows that the want of home rule is the want of everything else that is honest and fair. Rulers forced upon a people are never just." And this the past history of the different Territories corroborates. There can be no objection opposed to the provision of this bill because it entails upon the government any greater expense. Under the present system the Governor and Secretary are paid by the Federal Government, and there is no greater amount demanded for their payment, though selected in a different manner, and in accordance with the will of the people.

Republican institutions must be maintained upon this continent, and any abridgement of the rights of citizens, except where for the protection of the greater number, is incompatible with our system of government. Freedom and independence is the watchword, and all opposition must stand from under.

In conclusion, I say to the committee, not as one asking a favor, but as a representative man, demanding the rights that belong to his constituents, that this bill should be favorably reported to the House of Representatives with a request that it be passed.

Abe Lincoln's Great Humility.

EDITOR CHAMPION:—Many anecdotes and incidents connected with the public life of Mr. Lincoln, find their way into print, where they are eagerly read and universally accepted by the people of our nation, regardless of political complexion or former sectional sympathies. Two incidents come to the personal knowledge of the writer during the late war, that we believe never found their way into print, and yet are of equal value with many things unvoiced for which speak eloquently of the grand, simple "ways of the martyred president."

In the year 1860, Mr. Pickett, (afterwards Colonel) of Rock Island, Illinois, wrote a letter to his friend Abe Lincoln, of Springfield, inviting him to visit Rock Island and deliver a lecture before the young men's club or some literary society in that town. Col. Pickett, in conclusion, assured his friend Lincoln that it gave him much pleasure to see his name mentioned as a possible candidate before the convention for Presidential honors. Mr. Lincoln replied briefly that "it would be impossible on account of business engagements for him to visit Rock Island in the near future for the purpose of delivering a lecture or for any other purpose." That while a few of his personal friends flattered him by mentioning his name in connection with the nomination for the presidency, he hoped for the welfare of the cause no further or public demonstration would be made toward that end. The original letter is now in possession of Major Klutche, of Lincoln, Nebraska, where Colonel Pickett also resides.

After the battle of Juka, in the autumn of 1862, a private soldier of Company B, of the 5th Iowa Infantry, deserted his command and escaped into Canada. Soon after taking the irrevocable step, he repented it very much and was pursued by remorse and shame such as is known only to the truly penitent. For some unexplained reason he did not see Mr. Lincoln's proffered pardon to all deserters who would return to duty before a date given in the proclamation, until it was too late to profit by its clemency. He determined to make his way to Washington, see the President, and throw himself upon his mercy. Once at the National Capital, little attention was paid to his demand to see the President, and he lingered for days about the Executive Mansion in a state of mind bordering on desperation. Finally he induced an attaché of the place to say to Mr. Lincoln that a private soldier wanted to see him, and he was soon ushered into the presence of Mr. Lincoln himself. He looked kindly upon the man who in a hurried, breathless manner told his story of desertion, shame and repentance. "If you will only pardon me, Mr. Lincoln, I will return to my comrades, serve out my time faithfully and serve afterwards the same length of time that I have been absent." Mr. Lincoln made no reply, but turned to a convenient desk, and with his own hand penned a free and unconditional pardon. The simple, plain paper also instructed United States Quartermasters to furnish him free transportation and subsistence and allowing him thirty days in which to reach his command then at Vicksburg, Miss. Mr. Lincoln slowly read the contents of the paper to the now thoroughly astonished and delighted soldier, and in the words and spirit of tenderness of one even greater than he, added: "Go, my son, and sin no more."

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